



Sunday Worship

First United Methodist Church of Riverside
4845 Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA 92506

Order of Worship

May 3, 2026 10 am

Fifth Sunday of Easter; Holy Communion Sunday

*Please stand as you are comfortable.

PRELUDE: "O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing!" by Rebecca Groom te Velde / Robert Phillips, Organist

***TRINITY BELLS**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN: #304** "Easter People, Raise Your Voices" by William M. James and Henry T. Smart / Led by Phil Bremenstuhl, Hymn Leader

Verse 1

**Easter people, raise your voices,
sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices;
heavenly music, let it ring.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Easter people, let us sing.**

Verse 2

**Fear of death can no more stop us
from our pressing here below.
For our Lord empowered us to
triumph over every foe.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
On to victory now we go.**

Verse 3

**Every day to us is Easter,
with its resurrection song.
When in trouble move the faster
to our God who rights the wrong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
See the power of heavenly throngs.**

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (Acts 7, 1 Peter 2, John 14) / Josephine Essien, Liturgist
(Liturgist) Come to Christ, our cornerstone.

(People) Christ has called us here.

(L) Trust in God, our firm foundation.

(P) God is with us here.

(L) Rest in the Spirit, our peace beyond peace.

(All) May the Spirit guide our way. Amen!

WELCOME / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST** (1 Peter 2, John 14)

(Pastor) Having received mercy and love from God, let's share mercy and love with one another—both now, as we share Christ's peace, and throughout the week ahead. Peace be with you!

(All) Peace be with you!

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

-Sharing of Joys and Concerns

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed (UM Hymn #882) / **All**

(Pastor) Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

(All) I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

(Pastor) Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

(All) I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

(Pastor) Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

(All) I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen!

*universal

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Give Ear to Our Prayer, O God" by Hal H. Hopson

***GOSPEL READING: Mark 4:1-20** (NRSVue) / Liturgist

The Parable of the Sower

¹Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ²He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³"Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell on a path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold." ⁹And he said, "If you have ears to hear, then hear!"

The Purpose of the Parables

¹⁰When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. ¹¹And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything comes in parables, ¹²in order that 'they may indeed look but not perceive,

**and may indeed hear but not understand;
so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.'"**

¹³And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables? ¹⁴The sower sows the word. ¹⁵These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. ¹⁶And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. ¹⁷But they have no root and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. ¹⁸And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word, ¹⁹but the cares of the age and the lure of wealth and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²⁰And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

(Liturgist) This is the word of God for the people of God.

(All) Thanks be to God! Amen!

ANTHEM: "Awake, My Soul, and Sing!" by John Purifoy / The Aldersgate Chorale, directed by Yvonne Flagg

SERMON: "INVITED TO LABOR FOR GOD'S HARVEST (Part I of II)" (Sermon series, "Bearing Fruit," #2 of 12) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor

***HYMN OF DEDICATION #314** "In the Garden" by C. Austin Miles

Verse 1

I come to the garden alone
while the dew is still on the roses,
and the voice I hear falling on my ear
the Son of God discloses.

Refrain:

And he walks with me, and he talks with me,
and he tells me I am his own;
and the joy we share as we tarry there,
none other has ever known.

Verse 2

He speaks, and the sound of his voice
is so sweet the birds hush their singing,
and the melody that he gave to me
within my heart is ringing. (Refrain)

Verse 3

I'd stay in the garden with him
though the night around me be falling,
but he bids me go; through the voice of woe
his voice to me is calling. (Refrain)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING (Isaiah 58, Psalm 112) / Liturgist

(Liturgist) God is the giver of all good things, creating us for a purpose. In gratitude for all we have received, we offer our lives back to God – sharing our time, skills, and money to join in building the Kingdom.

(All) Amen!

(Liturgist) I invite the ushers to receive our offerings.

OFFERTORY: "Easter People, Raise Your Voices" by C. S. Lang

***DOXOLOGY:** #95 "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" by Thomas Ken

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** (Psalm 31, 1 Peter 2, John 14) / Led by Liturgist

God of steadfast faithfulness and love, bless these gifts, that they may bring your message of faith and love to the world. Bless us also, that we may be steadfast and true in our giving and in our living. Build our church, build us, and build your world into a household of love and justice— the household you've envisioned since the beginning of time. In faith and trust, we pray. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION WITH MUSIC RESPONSES

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (EASTER SEASON)

(Pastor) The Lord be with you.

(Congregation) And also with you.

(P) Lift up your hearts.

(C) We lift them up to the Lord.

(P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(C) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(Pastor) It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, brought us to a land flowing with milk and honey, and set before us the way of life.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(All sing)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

(Pastor) Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

By your great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of your Son from the dead and to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading.

Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. When the Lord Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit. On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

On the day you raised him from the dead, he was recognized by his disciples in the breaking of the bread, and in the power of your Holy Spirit your Church has continued in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup.

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

(All sing)

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

(Pastor) Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

(All sing)

Amen. Amen. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(Pastor) And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray:

(All) Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

GIVING AND SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(Pastor) Please be assured that, as United Methodists, our congregation uses 100% grape juice for our communion element. Moreover, our church has Open Table tradition—meaning that, regardless of your faith background, everyone is invited to come forward and take communion elements. Everyone is invited and everyone is welcome!

Now, for those who are here in person, you have three options: (1) You can take the communion in a traditional way. Take a piece of Bread and dip it into the Cup, then eat it. (2) Or you can simply take a "Fellowship Cup," which includes both elements, from the basket and eat it in your seat. It's your choice. (3) If desired, you may take a "Gluten Free Fellowship Cup" from the special basket.

For those who are at home, via online or telephone, please take your own Bread and Cup now.

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY: "Salvation Has Come to Us" by Dietrich Buxtehude and Donald Johns

UNISON PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

(All) Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LAITY BLESSINGS / Kris Lovekin, Lay Leader

***SENDING HYMN: #312** "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" by Charles Wesley

Verse 1

Hail the day that sees him rise, Alleluia!

To his throne above the skies, Alleluia!

Christ, awhile to mortals given, Alleluia!

Reascends his native heaven, Alleluia!

Verse 2

There the glorious triumph waits, Alleluia!

Lift your heads, eternal gates, Alleluia!

Christ hath conquered death and sin, Alleluia!

Take the King of glory in, Alleluia!

Verse 3

See! the heaven its Lord receives, Alleluia!

Yet he loves the earth he leaves, Alleluia!

Though returning to his throne, Alleluia!

Still he calls the world his own, Alleluia!

Verse 4

See! he lifts his hands above, Alleluia!

See! he shows the prints of love, Alleluia!

Hark! his gracious lips bestow, Alleluia!

Blessings on his church below, Alleluia!

***RESPONSIVE BENEDICTION** (John 14)

(Pastor) Even as God sends us into the world, Christ has prepared the way.

(All) Following Christ, we go to serve and love with faith and hope. Amen!

POSTLUDE: "Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise" by Wilbur Held

In Our Hearts and Prayers:

David Cardenas, Gary Bruggeman, Lee Ann Salmon, Regan Pope, Bill Ashworth, Eduardo Reyes, Tina Dungan, Lupe Vela, Ronnie Tovar, Roger Murray, Lolita Manacop, Grace Reyes, Sharon Henry, Jun Valino, Jon Dugan, Marie Madden, Gitanjali Spencer, George Callow, Norma Nelson, Ed Lamers, Mack Davis, Pat Beals, Michael Thompson, Marge Wolter, John and Susan Logger, Melissa Williams, Mary Herrmann, Bill and Helen Nuchols, Jim Ashworth, Mary Boon, Melva Cooke, Michelle Arguelles, Robert and Benita Roberts, the family of Robert Schiffer

This Week

Sunday, May 3

- Bible Study w/Brent (Chandler Lounge) – 8:30 – 9:45 am
- Chapel Prayer (Chapel) – 9:15–9:45 am
- Fifth Sunday of Easter, Holy Communion Sunday Worship – **“INVITED TO LABOR FOR GOD’S HARVEST (Part I of II)”** (Sermon series, **“Bearing Fruit,”** #2 of 12) / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children’s Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) – 11:15 am
- U.P.L.I.F.T. Youth Sunday Dinner (Youth Room) – 5 pm
- Hybrid Bible Study w/Lucinda (Chandler Lounge or Zoom) – 5:30 pm

Monday, May 4

- Trustees Meeting (Zoom) – 7 pm
- Worship Committee Meeting (Zoom) – 7 pm

Tuesday, May 5

- Bible Study w/James (off campus) – 10 am
- Allegro Ringers rehearsal (Mary’s Kitchen) – 7 pm

Wednesday, May 6

- UWF Walk About (off campus) – 8:30 am
- UWF Flower Gardens – 5:30 pm
- The Response Band rehearsal (Sanctuary) – 6:30 pm
- Bible Study w/Sophie (Chandler Lounge) – 7 pm

Thursday, May 7

- Bible Study w/Richard (Chandler Lounge) – 10:30 am
- UWF Bible Study (Zoom) – 6:45 pm
- Aldersgate Chorale (Music Room) – 7 pm

Friday, May 8

- Men’s Prayer Breakfast (Mary’s Kitchen) – 7 am

Saturday, May 9

- East District Conference (Zoom) – 1-3 pm

Sunday, May 10

- Bible Study w/Brent (Chandler Lounge) – 8:30-9:45 am
- Sixth Sunday of Easter, Mother’s Day, Festival of the Christian Home Worship – Sermon: **“INSIGHTS FROM JESUS’ MOM”** / The Rev. J. T. Kim, Pastor (Sanctuary) – 10 am
- Children’s Sunday School (Club Ark and Nursery) – 10:15 am
- Church and Society Meeting (Chandler Lounge) – 11:15 am
- Hybrid Bible Study w/Lucinda (Chandler Lounge or Zoom) – 5:30 pm

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